

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are presently pending, of which Claims 13-15, 19-26, and 34 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 37 has been added herein. Support for this newly added claim is found at least on page 4, lines 13-22 and FIGS. 1 and 2 of the originally filed application. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objection

The Examiner objected to Claim 35 because there is no clear antecedent basis for "the prism". The Examiner suggested that the term "the prism array" be used.

Claim 35 has been amended accordingly.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirmer *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,164,799). Since Hirmer *et al.* issued on December 26, 2000, which is after the filing date of the present application, it is respectfully submitted that Hirmer *et al.* is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). However, Hirmer *et al.* may be prior art under another provision of 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Independent Claim 35 has been amended to distinguish over Hirmer *et al.* Support for the amendment is found at least at page 4, lines 13-22 and FIGS. 1 and 2 of the originally filed application. No new matter has been added.

More particularly, Claim 35 has been amended to recite that the prism array includes peaks and valleys and that substantially all of the peaks are disposed in about a single plane. In contrast, the prism array in Hirmer *et al.* that alternates orientation includes peaks that are not in about the same plane. See, for example, FIG. 6 of Hirmer *et al.*

The rejection is thus believed to be overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 10-12, 17, 18, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanamori (U.S. Patent 6,139,173).

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite "a tilted prism array". It is respectfully submitted that Hanamori fails to teach or suggest this limitation since the prism array (6,7) is not tilted. Each of the remaining dependent claims depends directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1, which has been amended to recite patentable subject matter over Hanamori. Accordingly, the rejection is believed to be overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner stated that Claims 3, 5-9, and 16 were objected to "as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

The Examiner is thanked for such allowance. It is respectfully submitted that each of these claims depends from an otherwise allowable claim.

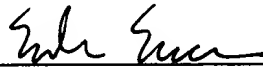
The Examiner is also thanked for the allowance of Claims 27-33.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By 
Erik L. Ence
Registration No. 42,511
Telephone: (978) 341-0036
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

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Concord, Massachusetts 01742-9133